

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/S:FVORTIZ:HE

APPROVED BY: S/S:FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUANDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 239085

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 5918 ACTION SECSTATE 07 OCT

QUOTE

S E C R E T LISBON 5918

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA AND AMCONSUL LUANDA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SREF, PO, AO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA - AIRLIFT

REF: STATE 238243

1. SAW PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO 5:00 P.M. LOCAL
OCTOBER 7. CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL.

2. AZEVEDO GAVE ME HIS "SOLEMN PROMISE" THAT GOP WOULD DO
EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO REMOVE EQUIPMENT. HE ALSO NOTED
THAT GOP KEPT ITS PROMISES. IF IT WAS ABSOLUTELY

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ESSENTIAL TO LEAVE ANYTHING BEHIND, HE SAID, IT WOULD SURELY

BE A VERY SMALL AMOUNT AND GOP WOULD SEE TO IT THAT IT WOULD NEITHER BE GIVEN TO ANY ONE GROUP NOR LEFT IN A PLACE WHERE IT COULD BE TAKEN OVER BY ANY OF THE FACTIONS. AZEVEDO SAID GOP POLICY WAS ONE OF NEUTRALITY, AND THIS POLICY WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO MILITARY INVENTORY "AS A POINT OF HONOR." HE UNDERSTOOD THAT I WAS REFERRING TO ALL KINDS OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING ARMS, AMMUNITION, VEHICLES, PLANES AND SHIPS.

3. AZEVEDO SAID GOP STILL INTENDED TO HOLD TO NOVEMBER 11 DATE EVEN THOUGH IT WAS CLEAR ANGOLAN FACTIONS WERE NOT PREPARED TO "HANDLE THE SITUATION." HE HOPED AFRICAN COUNTRIES MIGHT BE HELPFUL. AZEVEDO VOLUNTEERED THAT GOP PLANNED TO KEEP A PART OF ITS TROOPS IN LUANDA AFTER INDEPENDENCE, SINCE THE ALVOR AGREEMENT STIPULATED THAT TROOPS COULD STAY UNTIL FEBRUARY. GOP POLICY CONTINUED TO BE BASED ON THE ALVOR AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: SUGGEST DEPARTMENT EXPLAIN TO MELO ANTUNES THE REASONS FOR THIS DEMARCHE SINCE IT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM. I TRIED TO AVOID THIS BY REFERRING TO NEED FOR GOVERNMENT-WIDE POSITION AND POINTING TO FACT THAT MELO ANTUNES IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

5. I HAVE NOW MADE FOUR DEMARCHES ON ANGOLA, TWO FOCUSING ON EQUIPMENT. THE ONLY "EVIDENCE" I HAVE SEEN POINTING TO ANY PROBLEM ON ARMS IS MOBUTU'S QUESTIONABLE SPECULATION, WHICH WAS CONTRADICTED BY LUANDA REPORTING. GOP HAS CONSISTENTLY RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO OUR APPROACHES. WE SEEM TO BE QUESTIONING THEIR GOOD FAITH, WHEN THE REAL PROBLEM IS THEIR CAPACITY. ARM TWISTING IS FINE IF THE ARM IS CONNECTED TO THE SOCKET, BUT THIS ONE ISN'T.

6. IF DEPARTMENT IS STILL UNABLE TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY TO THEIR MONTH-OLD REQUEST ON AIRLIFT WE SHOULD TELL GOP, SO THAT THEY CAN TRY TO PROCEED WITH OTHER PLANS.
CARLUCCI

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INDEPENDENCE, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE239085
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:FVORTIZ:HE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N750005-0111
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751077/aaaacqrl.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 238243
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by WorreISW>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA - AIRLIFT
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SREF, PO, AO, (AZEVEDO, JOSE PINHEIRO DE)
To: KINSHASA LUANDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006